Forum Application - Site design

Overview

This poster presents design diagrams of structure web forum application. These diagrams visualize web-pages (white boxes) with its controls like buttons (blue circles), list of items (group of horizontal gray lines), input controls (yellow boxes), and static text areas (gray boxes). The diagrams also contains link references (as oriented curved lines). These references can be viewed as a path of "user walk" through the forum application. Note that comments of a web-page is placed just bellow the web-page.
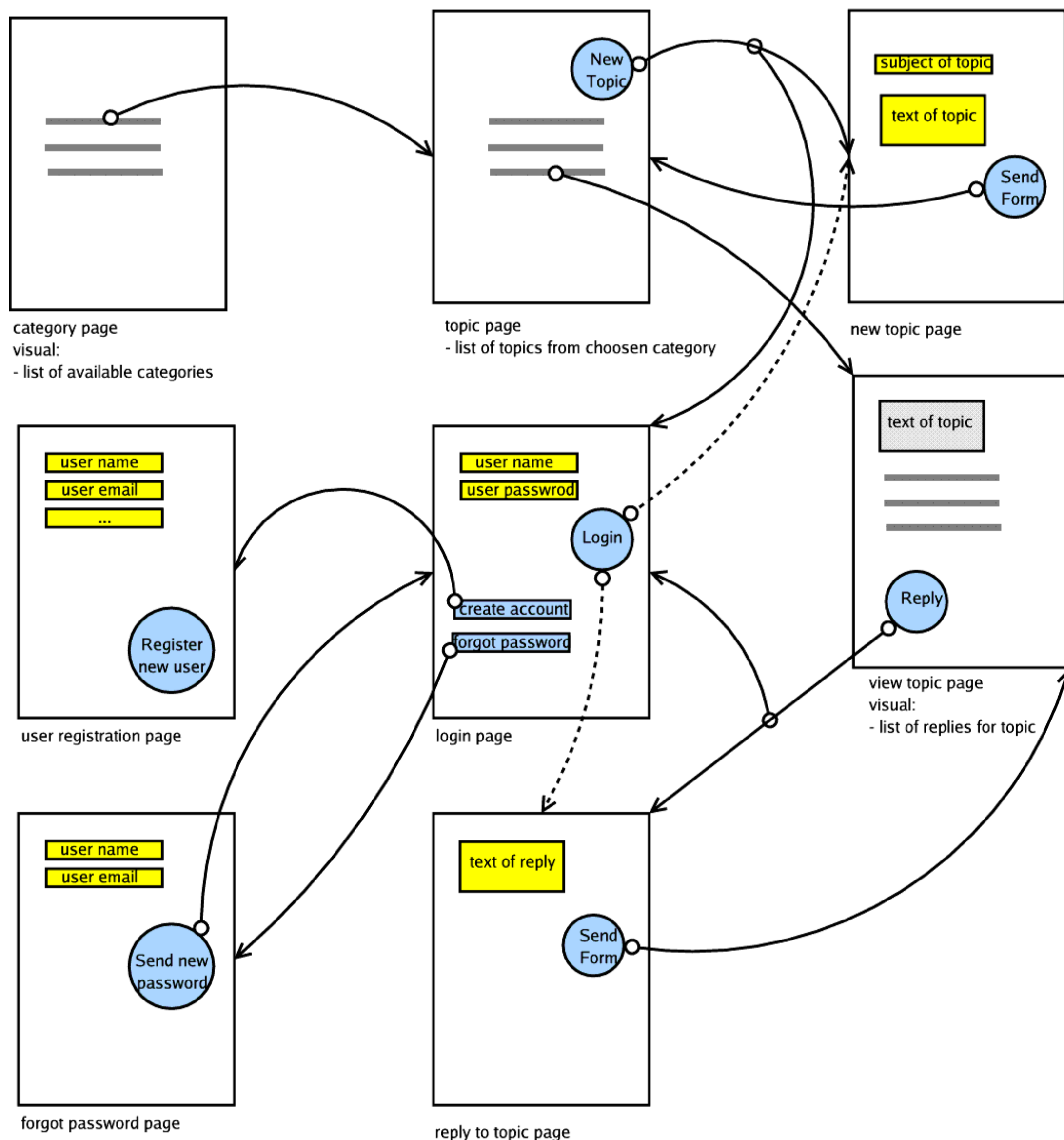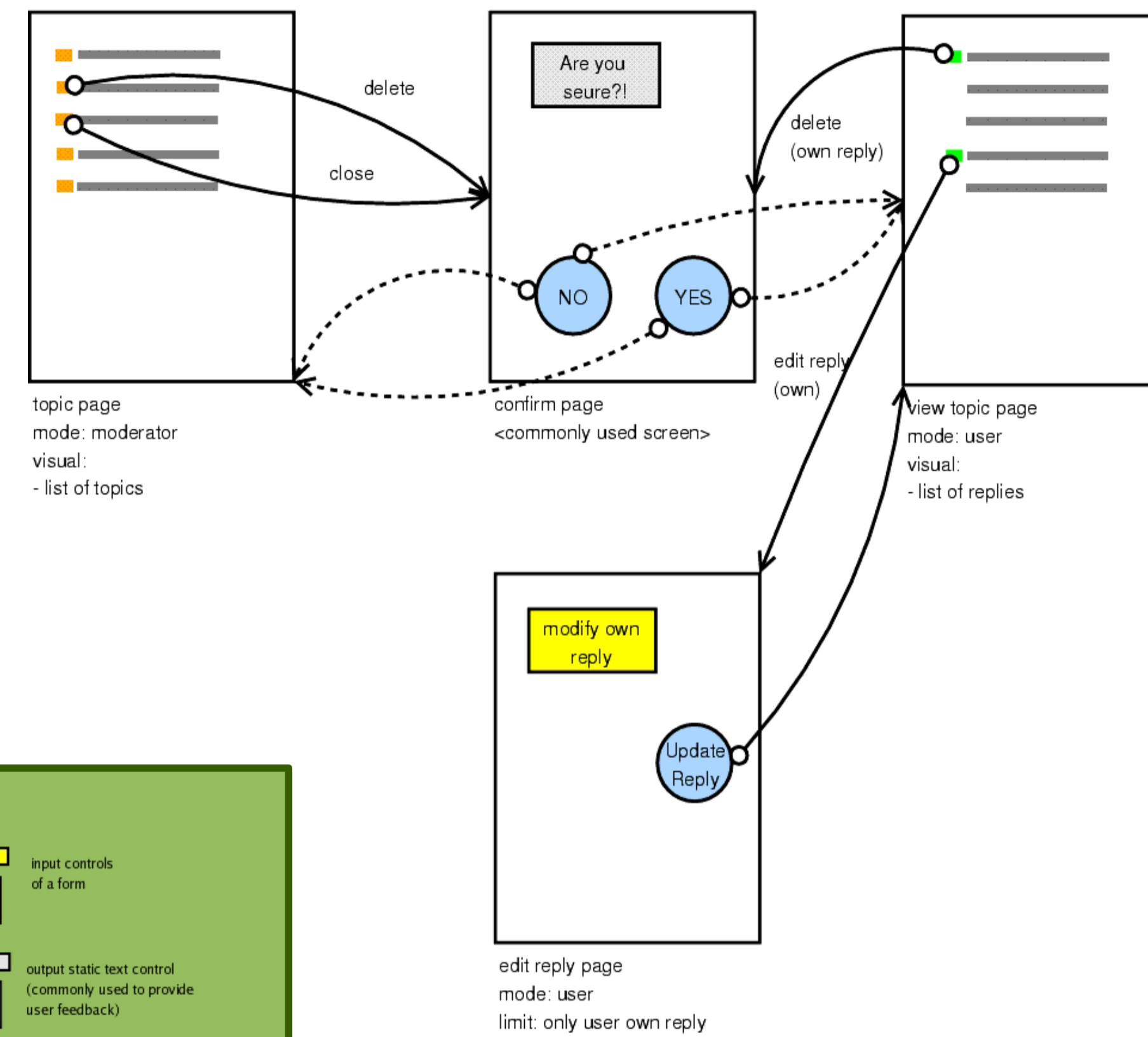
Instead of having one huge diagram, we decided to split into three parts:
- First part is called *Basic Site design* and its focus is on basic usage of forum software.
- Second diagram is called *Advance user design* and visualize some operations, that can be performed by user on his own replies in reply list (indicated by small green boxes in a list), or by moderator on topics of his own category.
- And finally the third part visualize operations of administrator. This diagram is called *Administration mode design*.
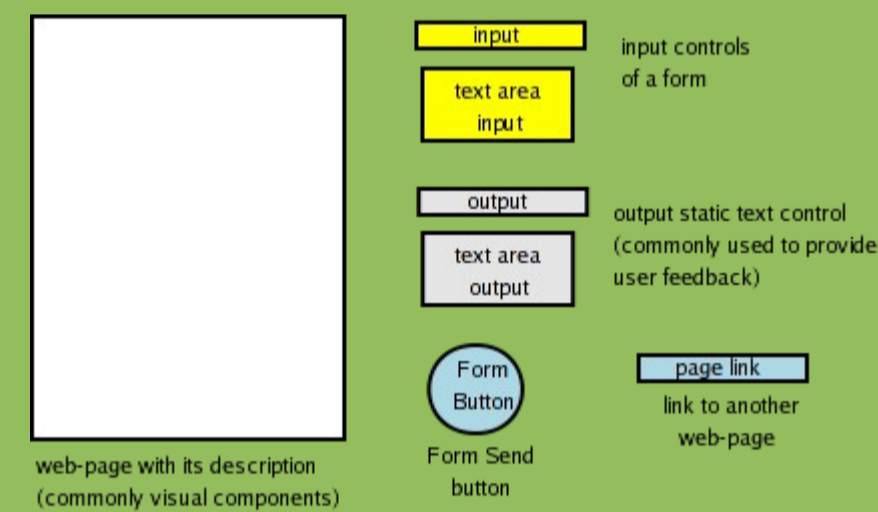
User roles

Actors of our application are divided into three categories, depending on their privileges. Note that user from successive category has also privileges of previous category.
- *Basic User* – this user is common forum user. He can go through topics, read its replies and post his own replies. He also can modify or delete his reply.
- *Moderator* – can maintain his category of topics. He can close topic (so everybody can read topic text and all replies to it, but nobody can post another reply to a closed topic), or event delete it (so nobody can even read topic text and replies to it).
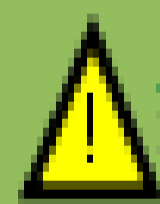- *Administrator* – maintains topic categories, and users and their privileges.

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topic page
mode: moderator
visual:
- list of topics

delete
close

confirm page
<commonly used screen>

NO   YES

delete (own reply)
edit reply (own)

view topic page
mode: user
visual:
- list of replies

modify own reply

Update Reply

edit reply page
mode: user
limit: only user own reply

Controls

input
text area input — input controls of a form

output
text area output — output static text control (commonly used to provide user feedback)

Form Button
Form Send button

page link — link to another web-page

web-page with its description (commonly visual components)

Advanced controls

In these diagrams are used some advanced controls to provide user more comfortable workspace.

⚠ This is hint informing administrator that some category of topics has not assigned moderator.

This is component where user can select one or more user. For this purpose are there to lists of user one for selected and one for user that aren't selected.

This represents list of replies. Replies that posted current user can be modified or deleted.

This represents list of items (categories or users) with links to operations on these items.

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category page
visual:
- list of available categories

New Topic

topic page
- list of topics from choosen category

Send Form

new topic page
subject of topic
text of topic

Send Form

text of topic

user registration page
user name
user email
...
Register new user

login page
user name
user passwrod
Login
create account
forgot password

view topic page
visual:
- list of replies for topic
text of topic
Reply

forgot password page
user name
user email
Send new password

reply to topic page
text of reply
Send Form

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category list page
Limit: only administrator
Visual: cat. list, notification icons (cat. without moderator)
new cat. name
Create Category
edit cat.

edit category
Limit: only administrator
category name
Update

admin panel
Limit: only administrator
user list
category list
delete category

confirm page
<commonly used screen>
Are you seure?!
NO   YES

user list page
mode: only administrator
visual:
- list of users
close/unlock user
back

moderator/admin edit page
Limit: only administrator
[X] Is admin?
Select group to be moderated by this user.
Cancel   Update